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author is quite consistent in his treatment of the subject-matter, although his review of the growth of the powers of the president would seem to imply the modification of a statement in the preface of his first volume to the effect that "there has been no such development [of the president's office and of the successive expansions and limitations of the president's powers and duties] to record." The attractive style of the book, as well as the valuable source material to be found in the platforms and excerpts quoted, should appeal to every student of the social sciences. The book is well written and satisfies an important demand.

Histoire économique de l'industrie cotonnière en Alsace. By ROBERT LÉVY.
Paris: Felix Alcan et Guillaumin, 1912. Pp. xxiii+312. \$2.00.

This work presents in a logical and systematic way the historical development and present status of the cotton textile industry in one of its early centers. By the end of the Middle Ages there were but four important textile centers in Europe, namely, the so-called Low Countries, England, Normandy, and Alsace. These centers naturally were the first to avail themselves of the new fiber for making cloth that began to be imported at the period just referred to.

There are, as we know, three distinct operations in the cotton textile business, namely, spinning, weaving, and printing. It was with the coming in of the last of these operations that Alsace first became really prominent in connection with the cotton industry, much of the cloth printed being imported from England, Switzerland, and more distant countries. The town of Kolmar is said to have begun to print cotton in 1743, but Mülhausen soon surpassed all others and is today the leading center in Alsace for all three operations in the cotton textile industry.

The causes which made Alsace a textile producer, the spread and development of the industry within the province, the change to machine and capitalistic production, as well as the changing market organizations are carefully traced and clearly set forth in the volume. The old archives of the cities in Alsace as well as in the cities with which they mostly traded have apparently been diligently searched and statements from records found there and also from other early sources have been freely quoted. Statistical devices for presentation of groups of facts have been liberally and effectively used. One of the facts brought out in the study is the marked decline in the spinning industry in the province following German annexation in 1871. In the decade and a half following this event the number of spindles fell from upward of 1,900,000 to about 1,450,000. This decline is attributed largely to the emigration of labor and capital. Since 1885 spinning again shows an upward tendency, but it is still considerably below the high-water mark of 1871. The effect on the other branches of the industry seems to have been less marked. Weaving in particular was very slightly affected.

An accompanying series of maps showing by means of circles and colored sectors the distribution of the industry in its three branches at various dates is exceptionally well devised and executed.

La politique de réforme sociale en Angleterre: Conférences de "L'Eighty Club." Paris: M. Rivi re et Cie, 1912. 8vo, pp. xv+191. Fr. 2.

The "Eighty Club" under the able leadership of Lloyd George is a strong political organization in Great Britain giving expression to the widespread social reform movement of recent years. The report of four conferences of the club held under the auspices of the Solvay Institute of Sociology is to be found in this small volume. It is at once a succinct and a comprehensive presentation of England's agrarian, industrial, social, and fiscal reform policies, many of which have been put into practice within the past five years.

A point of striking interest in some of these reforms is the gradual abatement of the traditional solicitude for private property rights. Observe, for example, the agrarian policy as expressed in the Small Holdings and Allotment act of 1907; or, the fiscal reform carried out by the imposition of the Super-Tax upon certain incomes.

Hand in hand with this diminution of respect for property rights goes an unmistakable limitation of the so-called individual liberty in industry. A notable instance of this fact may be found in the Choice of Employments act of 1910.

The most important steps taken in social reform, strictly speaking, are sick and old-age benefits and insurance against unemployment. The latter of these reforms is still in the experimental stage and its administration is left with the Board of Trade. The administration of sick and old-age benefits, however, unlike the analogous institution in Germany, is not in the hands of the government but is left with the beneficiaries. The chief reason for this difference in administrative agencies of the two countries is that, whereas sick and old-age insurance is of a comparatively recent growth in Germany, in England it has been in existence, in one form or another, among trade fraternities and friendly societies and administered by them for the last four hundred years. The government, therefore, in offering to an already existing institution some measure of substantial encouragement, does not feel justified in interfering with the administration of the affairs of that institution.

Railways in the United States. By SIMON STERNE. New York: Putnam, 1912. 8vo, pp. xiii+209. \$1.35.

This work is made up of a number of papers on the subject of railroad history and management written in the years following the passage of the Interstate Commerce Act and prior to the author's death in 1901. Some of the papers were prepared as reports to investigating commissions, and one was written in compliance with an appointment by President Cleveland, for